

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 18, 30 and 31 as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, pending in this application:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A material for medical use in humans and/or animals bearing a biologically active agent, said material being multilayered and comprising

- a) a core material, wherein said core material is formed into a body, optionally into a body having the shape of a finished device,
- b) two or more layers of coating material of which the first layer has been applied onto said core material and additional layers have been applied onto said coating material of a preceding layer and
- c) said biologically active agent incorporated in at least one of the coating layers,

wherein said coating material is a biopolymer, a sol-gel produced silica gel or a biologically active molecule, and

wherein said layers are asymmetric, such that different layers cover different portions of the core material, different layers comprise different biologically active agents, or both.

19. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein the core material is a biodegradable silica body or a biopolymer.

20. (Previously presented) The material of claim 19, wherein said biodegradable silica body is a bioactive glass or a sol-gel produced silica gel.

21. (Previously presented) The material of claim 19, wherein said biopolymer is a polylactide or a cellulose.

22. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein said coating material is heparin.

23. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein a biologically active agent is composed in a sol-gel produced silica gel body or a sol-gel produced silica gel coating layer, or a biopolymer body or biopolymer coating layer.

24. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein the core material and all coating materials are biodegradable.

25. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein said body has a shape selected from the group consisting of a granule, a spherulite, a sheet, a film, a plate, a stick, a pin, a screw, a tube, a fiber, a hollow fiber, a woven fabric, a non-woven fabric and a shape resembling at least a portion of a human or animal body part.

26. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein said body has a shape selected from the group consisting of a stent, a dental implant, an orthopedic implant, an implant for controlled drug delivery, a bone fixation pin, a fixation plate, and a regeneration matrix.

27. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein the biologically active agent is a member selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a protein, a polysaccharide, an oligosaccharide, a mono- or disaccharide, an organic compound, an organometallic compound or an inorganic compound containing any element with an atomic number ranging from 3 to 84.

28. (Previously presented) The material of claim 18, wherein the biologically active agent is an inorganic ion or a polymer thereof, silica gel per se, silica gel loaded with a therapeutical agent, heparin or its derivative, a growth factor, a growth factor producing virus, a growth factor inhibitor, an integrin blocker (e.g. a IIa/IIIb inhibitor), an oligonucleotide or a complete functional or partial gene in sense or antisense orientation in a suitable expression vector or any other expression vector construct for local delivery of said biologically active agent.

29. (Previously presented) The material of claim 28, wherein said material is formed into a body having the shape of a stent, an inner wall of which is provided with a biologically active agent which is an inorganic ion or a polymer thereof, silica gel per se, silica gel loaded with a therapeutical agent, heparin, a growth factor, a growth factor producing virus, a growth factor inhibitor, an integrin blocker (e.g. a IIa/IIIb inhibitor), an oligonucleotide or a complete or partial functional gene in sense or antisense orientation in a suitable expression vector or any other expression vector construct; and which biologically active agent is released at a controlled rate in *in vivo* conditions.

30. (Currently amended) A device made of a material, ~~useful for finishing into a device of a material~~ suitable for medical use in humans and/or animals, said material bearing or being capable of binding a biologically active agent, wherein said material is multilayered and formed into a body of the shape of a finished device comprising

a) a core material, wherein said core material is formed into a body, optionally into a body having the shape of a finished device,

b) two or more layers of coating material of which the first layer has been applied onto said core material and additional layers have been applied onto said coating material of a preceding layer and

c) at least one layer of coating material capable of binding
[[a]] said biologically active agent

wherein said coating material is a biopolymer, a sol-gel produced silica gel or a biologically active molecule, and

wherein said layers are asymmetric such that different layers cover different portions of the core material, different layers comprise different biologically active agents, or both.

31. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of a multilayered material for medical use in humans and/or animals bearing a biologically active agent, said material comprising

a) a core material, wherein said core material is formed into a body, optionally into a body having the shape of a finished device,

b) two or more layers of coating material of which the first layer has been applied onto said core material and additional layers have been applied onto said coating material of a preceding layer and

c) said biologically active agent incorporated in at least one of the coating layers, and wherein said coating material is a biopolymer, a sol-gel produced silica gel or a biologically active molecule, comprising the repeated steps of

i) coating said core material or a coating material of a preceding layer with a coating material which optionally can comprise a biologically active agent and

ii) optionally binding a biologically active agent to said coating,

wherein said layers are asymmetric such that different layers cover different portions of the core material, different layers comprise different biologically active agents, or both.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 31 wherein the core material has been formed into a body, optionally into a body having the shape of a finished device, wherein a coating is generated on the core material or a coating material of a preceding layer on a desired region of the body.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the attachment of a coating layer is improved by using a surface modification technique on a core surface or a surface of the previous coating layer.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said surface modification technique is radiation induced grafting or a silylation treatment.